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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Boykin DATE TYPED 1/31/05 HB 229

SHORT TITLE Raising at Risk Grandchildren Program SB _____

ANALYST Dunbar

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06	FY05	FY06		
	\$100.0			Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates SB254.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Children Youth and Families Department (CYFD)
 Aging and Long Term Care Department (ALTSD)
 Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (DDPC)
 NM Public Education Department (NMPED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 229 appropriates \$100,000 from the general fund in FY06 to CYFD for an intergenerational training research and support program to assist grandparents raising at-risk grandchildren in Dona Ana and southern Otero counties.

Significant Issues

The bill defines grandparent caregivers as grandparents or great-grandparents who live in the same household and who serve as primary caregiver(s) for one or more of their grandchildren. The bill identifies specific services CYFD will provide including accessibility to experienced professionals, support in establishing legal relationships, financial assistance, access to mental and physical health services, and support for after-school care, transportation and tutoring.

DDPC indicates that increasing numbers of grandchildren being raised by grandparents have developmental disabilities. An American Association on Mental Retardation (AAMR) article addresses this growing population, identifies the physical and health stressors that affect these grandparents, and provide evidence that support groups help reduce depression and increase the sense of mastery in caregiving skills.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

Improved family stability among the “at-risk” target population may serve to reduce the number of children involved with CYFD systems.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$100,000 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY06 shall revert to the general fund.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

CYFD would be required to use existing resources to administer the development and monitoring of the new contract services described in the bill, including the specified research component.

DUPLICATION

HB229 duplicates SB254.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

CYFD points out that the bill does not define the “at-risk” target population, or specify whether the children identified must be in the custody of CYFD, involved in the judicial system, or simply living with the grandparents.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

Although widely acknowledged to be a statewide problem, the bill appropriates funds only to a small southwestern region, and excludes other localities from receiving training or support through this appropriation. CYFD currently provides a range of support services to grandparents when grandchildren are formally placed in their care. CYFD also provides child care assistance to income eligible grandparents who have custody or guardianship of their grandchildren. Grandparents are exempt from co-payments for child care assistance under current child care assistance regulations.

According to the AARP October 2003 New Mexico Fact Sheet for Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children: (*These data are taken from the U.S. Census Bureau Table DP-2. Profile Selected Social Characteristics:2000):

- Nationally, 4.5 million children are living in grandparent-headed households (6.3% of all children under age 18). This represents a 30% increase from 1990 to 2000.
- In New Mexico, there are 41,085 children living in grandparent-headed households (8.1% of all the children in the state). There are another 10,572 children living in households headed by other relatives (2.1% of all the children in the state).

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- In New Mexico, 54,041 grandparents report they are responsible for their grandchildren living with them [4,272 in Albuquerque]: 2% of these grandparents are African American; 53% are Hispanic/Latino; 20% are American Indian or Alaskan Native; and 23% are White. 30% of these grandparents live in households without the children's parents present.

BD/lg